

1941



# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Department

OF THE

Lymm Urban District Council

BY

JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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# LYMM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1941

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## *Chairman :*

MR. J. F. DUGDALE, J.P.,  
"Park View," Oughttrington Lane, Lymm.

## *Vice-Chairman :*

MR. H. KENZIE, 205 Rush Green Road, Lymm.

## *Chairman of Sanitary Committee :*

MR. J. H. DYE, "Elton," Brook Road, Lymm.

## *Councillors :*

NAME	WARD
MR. J. H. HOLT .....	Booth's Hill
MR. E. LLOYD .....	do.
MR. OWEN DAVIES .....	do.
MR. H. KENZIE .....	Heatley
MR. N. WORTHINGTON .....	do.
MR. T. C. CLAYTON .....	do.
MR. S. ACKERLEY .....	Lymm
CAPT. A. LINDSAY WATT, J.P., C.C.	do.
MR. J. F. DUGDALE .....	do.
MR. G. H. PARKER .....	Statham
MR. J. H. DYE .....	do.

## *Clerk to the Council :*

MR. T. ASHCROFT.

## *Public Health Officials :*

DR. JAMES BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.(LOND.), D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Part Time

MR. D. MORT, M.INST. M. & CY. E., A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.  
SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

MR. J. CARTER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.  
SANITARY AND BUILDING INSPECTOR



## TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LYMM.

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*Gentlemen,*

I have pleasure in submitting my sixteenth Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1941.

The Ministry of Health suggests that with a view to economy in paper and printing, all Reports shall this year be curtailed. Consequently many matters are not given as fully as hitherto, but particulars are filed for future use.

Much time has again been given by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with Air Raid Precaution work and the collection of salvage, nevertheless essential work has been well maintained and any new legislation or regulations have been given such attention as was possible. Duties connected with Infectious Diseases, Food, Water and Scavenging have not been neglected.

### POPULATION.

The population as given by the Registrar General shows a decrease of 172 for the year. The birth and death rate are respectively 13·0 and 12·3 against 13·4 and 11·4 in 1940. The corresponding rates for England and Wales for 1941 were 14·2 and 12·9. Considering the severity of the weather in the early part of the year when there was a great increase in sickness, the death rate can be again considered satisfactory. The principle causes of death were heart and circulatory diseases 26 and cancer 10 out of a total of 75. The infant mortality rate is higher than last year being 87, for England and Wales it was 59. The maternal mortality death rate was nil.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Owing to the now compulsory notification of whooping cough and measles (to meet War Emergency requirements) the total of notifications is again high, measles (total) 181, whooping cough 53, scarlet fever only 1 against 3 last year, whilst of diphtheria there were no cases.

There were no notifications of cerebro-spinal fever of which disease there were 4 in the previous year. There were no deaths from diphtheria, scarlet fever, cerebro-spinal fever and measles. There were 2 deaths from whooping cough and 2 from pulmonary tuberculosis.

### IMMUNISATION.

Every school in the district was visited in the early part of 1941 and the importance of immunisation against diphtheria was the subject of much propaganda including talks to the children in different classes in the schools, the placing of posters in

prominent places and the issue of circulars to the homes of all children in the schools.

It soon became apparent that there were a considerable number of children in every school in the district who required treatment.

Consequently it was considered advisable to again circularise the schools, and on the circulars was a form of consent to be signed by the parents who would be willing for their children to be immunised at the specially arranged clinics. The large response to this latter effort was rather surprising, and it was very apparent that there was a demand for the holding of clinics at each school. As a result 681 children received two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxide as suggested by the Ministry of Health.

It will be quite safe to say that at least 70% of the children aged 1 to 15 years have been immunised, but it is difficult to get the exact percentage. In several schools over 90% of the children have been immunised, but the same, unfortunately, cannot be said for the children from 1 to 5 years. This is regrettable as this younger quinquennial period is the most fatal period of life for diphtheria. There are signs, however, that parents are becoming aware of this and younger children have recently been coming along in greater numbers. No child has been treated at a clinic without the signed request from the parent.

#### HOUSING.

Owing to the difficulties of the property owner in getting material and labour for house repairs, it may be that the general level of house property has somewhat declined; this has increased the work of the Sanitary Inspector as many more visits than would under other conditions have been sufficient have had to be made in order to maintain houses in a sanitary condition. Details of such matters as housing, water supply, drainage, food inspection, infectious diseases, &c., will be found in the appropriate special sections of this report.

#### WATER.

The water supply has on testing been consistently good. Chlorination of the whole supply was commenced in 1939.

I should like to express my deep appreciation of the invaluable help and co-operation which all members of the Council and Staff have given me.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

JAMES BENNETT,  
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 4,241 acres.

Rateable Value at end of 1941, £34,983.

„ „ „ 1940, £34,878.

Product of Penny Rate, £145.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's Estimate shews a decrease of 172.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1940 .....	13·02
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....	48·19
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population .....	12·37

There were 3 illegitimate births.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.—Nil.

### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	87·50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births .....	87·50
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	10
„ „ Measles (all ages) .....	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	0

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring comment, nor was there any specially noteworthy sickness or invalidity.



CAUSES OF DEATH IN LYMM URBAN DISTRICT  
for 1941.

CAUSES OF DEATH. Civilians only.	Males.	Females.
Influenza ... ..	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	1	1
Other Tuberculous diseases ... ..	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	7	3
Diabetes ... ..	1	—
Nephritis ... ..	1	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.... ..	5	5
Heart disease ... ..	6	9
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	1	—
Bronchitis... ..	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	3	2
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	—	—
Acute encephalitis lethargica ... ..	—	—
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	—	—
Other digestive diseases ... ..	1	1
Other deaths from violence ... ..	2	2
Road traffic accidents ... ..	3	—
Other defined diseases... ..	8	6
Deaths of Infants { Total ... ..	4	3
under 1 year.. { Illegitimate... ..	—	—
Total Births . ... ..	—	—
Legitimate. . ... ..	—	—
Illegitimate... ..	—	—

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES  
for the past 10 years in Lymm U.D. :

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Birth Rates	14.4	15.7	12.3	12.9	13.71	13.76	14.5	12.06	13.47	13.02
Death Rates	13.0	13.1	10.6	9.8	10.70	15.45	10.40	8.88	11.39	12.37
Inf. Mort. Rates	73	21	nil	53	36	43	58	25	11	87

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—see page 1.

CLERICAL ASSISTANCE—Typists services as required.

2.—(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES—see Annual Report for 1940.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES—see Annual Report for 1940.

The Ambulance facilities are quite adequate.

(c) THE DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION maintains one nurse.

(d) INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—This has been converted into a First Aid Post, but the ordinary routine work of the Centre was carried on.

The Council is not the Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare.

(e) HOSPITALS—see Annual Report for 1940.

(f) MORTUARY.—During the year the Public Mortuary was used 7 times.

1.—(i) WATER.—There were no new sources or improvement to existing sources and no extension of mains.

The supplies have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The water is controlled by bacteriological and chemical examination. Three bacteriological examinations were made, one from each well. All were satisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area are adequate.

2.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The two sewage works gave satisfactory effluents to the Lancashire Rivers Board.

3.—(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The number of conversions from the conservancy system to water carriage was nil. About 98 per cent. of the houses in the district are provided with clean water closets, leaving only 36 on the conservancy system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection of domestic waste, trade waste and street sweepings is carried out by direct labour.



## (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

## INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY AND BUILDING INSPECTOR.

NATURE OF INSPECTIONS	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results			REMARKS
		Statut'y	Informal	Notices compl'd with	Out-standing	Legal Pro-ceedings	
GENERAL SANITATION.							
Water Supply... ..	12	—	2	2	—	—	
Drainage of Existing Buildings..	17	1	4	5	—	—	
Stables and Piggeries... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	13	—	—	—	—	—	
Canal Boats ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Factories ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	
Workshops and Workplaces ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	
Outworkers ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Public Conveniences ... ..	28	—	—	—	—	—	
Theatres and Places of Enter- tainment ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Refuse Collection ... ..	31	2	3	5	—	—	
Refuse Disposal (Tips, &c.) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	5	—	—	—	—	—	
Smoke Observations ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Schools ... ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	
Shops ... ..	98	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Ditches and Watercourses ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	
Infectious Disease Enquiries, Disinfections, &c. ... ..	21	—	—	—	—	—	
HOUSING.							
Number of Houses Inspected under Public Health Acts ...	117	18	27	41	4	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	131	—	—	—	—	—	
Number of Houses Inspected under Housing Acts ... ..	18	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	37	—	—	—	—	—	
OVERCROWDING							
Number of Houses Inspected ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	
VERMINOUS PREMISES.							
Number of Houses Inspected ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits paid to above Houses ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ...	9	—	1	1	—	—	
INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD.							
Total Meat Inspection Visits ...	64	—	—	—	—	—	
Bakehouses ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	
Cowsheds, Dairies & Milkshops	43	—	—	—	—	—	
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous Food Visits... ..	22	—	—	—	—	—	
Street Vendors & Hawkers Carts	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Visits in connection with Sampling—Milk... ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	
Water ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	
	770	21	37	54	4	—	
Total Building Inspections... ..	520	—	—	—	—	—	
(for details see page 8)	1290	21	37	54	4	—	

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.—Regular supervision of shops and offices in the District was maintained but no action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v) CAMPING SITES.—None.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—All factory chimneys in the area were from time to time observed, but no action was required.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—None.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—No action required.

4.—SCHOOLS.—The sanitary conditions and water supply of schools are generally satisfactory.

### SECTION D.—HOUSING.

See page 7—Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.

OVERCROWDING.—No action taken or required.

### SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—All farms and dairies were inspected.

#### RETAILERS AND PRODUCERS.

Milk retailers (including producer-retailers)	25
Producers (total) .....	32

#### *Special Designations.*

“Tuberculin Tested” Producers .....	2
“Accredited” Producers .....	19

#### SAMPLES OF MILK EXAMINED FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

Bulk sampled collected at the farm .....	12
Number reported positive .....	0

#### SUMMARY OF MILK SAMPLING FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI, 1928-40.

Year.	Number of Samples.	Number Positive.	Percentage Positive.
Average 13 years 1928-40.....	35	2·4	6·8
1941 .....	12	0	0·0

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—All slaughter houses, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared were from time to time inspected.

All meat coming into the District was sent from Government controlled abattoirs where inspection was previously carried out.

The following foodstuffs were inspected in the shops and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

One beast's liver.

82 lbs. frozen lamb.

163 eggs.

### (c) PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES.

The undermentioned particulars of samples obtained in the Lymm Urban District during 1941 have been supplied by the courtesy of Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector of the County Weights and Measures Department.

Number obtained 20. Not up to the recognised standard of quality 1.

The Public Analyst reports as follows :—“The return must be considered as highly satisfactory, as out of the 20 samples obtained only one was certified against. The one exception concerned a sample of Sweetened Cake Flour which was certified as containing 0.3% of undeclared Saccharin. This is not a serious matter, and although it is not specifically laid down in any Act or Regulation that Saccharin must be declared, many Public Analysts consider that it is a sale to the prejudice of the purchaser if its presence is not disclosed.”

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The prevalence of the usually notifiable diseases was low, there being only 1 scarlet fever, 2 pneumonia and 1 encephalitis lethargica, and 7 tuberculosis. See tables attached hereto.

There were 181 notifications of measles and 53 whooping cough.

The Council provides, free of cost, Alum Precipitated Toxoid for artificial immunisation against diphtheria.

During the year 22 swabs were submitted for examination for diphtheria. All were negative.



# AGE GROUPS OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1941.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Hospital	
	Total Cases at all ages	Years											Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2*	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1*	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia... ..	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Lethargica ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	53	4	5	4	6	11	23	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ... ..	181	8	7	13	25	21	93	8	3	3	—	—	—	1*	—
TOTALS ...	246	12	13	17	32	32	119	8	4	6	1	1	2	6	1

One case of suspected Scarlet Fever was removed to Hospital from the Jewish Holiday Home.

\*1 Military Case.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2	2	2	1	1	1	—	—
	4		3		2		—	

**SECTION G.— FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

Whilst the hitherto usual Home Office Form 572 has been discontinued, the following action was taken during the year, viz. :—

Observations on the sanitary conditions and other matters were made but no action was required.







